

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

February 3, 2004 LB 32

property taxes more than I do. I was one of two senators that voted against lowering sales taxes here about four or five years ago. I would like to know who has the solution. But if we're going to go 49 different directions in here, we're not going to get anything done. We're going to leave our cities exposed, and they're going to get sued, and they're going to pay fines, and we won't have clean water, and we might have the potential, in a large rainstorm event, of flooding problems that could have been prevented if we'd have done something. So I would like to know the solution. And quite frankly, Senator Beutler and Senator Chambers, if you think we've got the votes to do this amendment, rather than vote it down, vote for it, I'm with you. But there were forces working against me that I wasn't getting any cooperation on. And it wasn't from you, Senator Beutler. You've always been on board the committee amendments. But whenever this was discussed before, we weren't going anywhere. Now, I can pull the bill and we can do nothing this year, but I think the long-term consequences are grave, I think they're real, and I think they're expensive. Now, it really doesn't matter to me whether we put it on property or if we put it on a fee or if we put it on impervious surfaces. It's...people are going to pay, and it's going to cost money. And if you can get around that, let me know. I don't have the answer, but I'm not getting any cooperation from this body, and I'm certainly not getting much cooperation from behind the glass. So you tell me what it's going to be. But if you think the answer is just to vote everything down and do nothing, well then, I'm sorry, we're going to dearly pay for this, and it's not going to be good for our environment, it's not going to be good for floods, and it's not going to be good for water quality. And that's...this is the federal government Clean Water Act, folks. It comes with requirements. It comes with mandates. But it doesn't come with any money. And if you have state funds for this, I'll vote for a sales and income tax increase. But if you don't, then we'd better let our NRDs and cities deal with it. And I don't know how to do...deal with it and get the necessary votes for any of these proposals. So here we are, 15 minutes till noon, nothing happening, and we're bickering. But nobody has the solution. So I'm waiting for it. But if we're going to go 49 different directions, we're not going to do anything, and the consequences are grave and they're real.